

Trip Journal: Los Angeles, Cont.

By **Kshemendra Paul**

Created **08/30/2010 - 18:43**

Posted by [Kshemendra Paul](#) ^[2] on Monday, August 30, 2010

- [Subscribe](#) ^[3] ^[4]

As part of my trip to the Los Angeles area earlier this month, I visited the [Coast Guard Los Angeles-Long Beach \(LA-LB\) Sector Command](#) ^[1]. The LA-LB Sector covers area from just north of Santa Barbara down the coast towards San Diego, a coastal span of 320 miles and 6,400 square miles of ocean.

The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are at the heart of the Command and are the first and second largest port in the United States, respectively. These bustling centers of commerce are critical economic facilitators; \$864M dollars of cargo per day flow through the two ports. It takes the hard work and coordination of many men and women to ensure the ports' security.

I participated in the Sector Command Morning Briefing as part of my tour. On this particular morning, a fishing vessel had grounded near Ventura, and Commanding Officer Captain Roger Laferriere, USCG, was leading a coordinated response to remove the fuel and oil from the ship. The Captain has spent much of his career responding to and working around oil spills and is an expert in the field. Having just returned from serving as the National Incident Commander in the Gulf for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, CAPT Laferriere understood the impact a spill could make on the ecology of the area and worked to ensure the appropriate information and situational awareness made it to the right hands to ensure a successful operation.

Later that morning, I joined Captain Laferriere on board the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) vessel for a tour of the port facilities to better see and understand the interdependencies between commerce and security. I was struck by how many jurisdictions had overlapping missions in the ports: while an LASD helo hovered above us, we were joined in the water by Port Police and Los Angeles Fire Department vessels, and a Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) squad car monitored from the shoreline. CAPT Laferriere noted that more than seven entities—Federal, State, local and private sector—operate in the port area, and this was a day like any other for them in the course of their work. The collaboration and co-existence among entities is standard for the Sector Command. More than standard, actually. It's essential.

The Captain talked about the intricate processes and level of trust that have developed among these entities over the years. He also talked about the guidelines in place to make sure that the right resources are applied to the situation at hand. (The fact that our tour was on an LASD vessel rather than a USCG ship reinforced how closely the entities work together.) Working independently, these seven organizations simply couldn't do the job that they do as one integrated organization. When we talk about 'mission partners' in our work, this is a great example of what we mean: one mission (security) attainable only through the cooperation and collaboration of various parties (partners). These rules of the road contribute to a successful information sharing infrastructure, and, in the end, a safer America.

Thanks to Captain Laferriere and his staff for a fascinating day and to the men and women of the USCG

for their unyielding commitment to our security.

Mon, 08/30/2010

[Previous Post](#) ^[5]

[Next Post](#) ^[6]

Source URL: <http://www.ise.gov/blog/kshemendra-paul/trip-journal-los-angeles-cont>

Links:

[1] <http://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/portDirectory.do?tabId=1&cotpld=32>

[2] <http://www.ise.gov/users/kshemendra-paul>

[3] <http://www.ise.gov/iseblog/feed>

[4] http://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USODNIISE/subscriber/new?topic_id=USODNIISE_27

[5] <http://www.ise.gov/blog/ise-bloggers/information-sharing-success-story-nevada>

[6] <http://www.ise.gov/blog/ise-bloggers/ise-action-minnesota>